

1 Remarks

2 Applicants respectfully note that FIGURES 2A-2D correspond to different mechanisms that  
3 can be employed to facilitate the removal of particles from within parcels. As noted in the  
4 specification, while the external surfaces of parcels might be contaminated, it is also possible for the  
5 internal volume of a parcel to include undesirable chemical or biological agents. Including a  
6 mechanism to obtain a sample of particles from within a parcel is therefore desirable. Independent  
7 Claim 1 does not recite an element to obtain particles from within a parcel. Thus, each of the four  
8 species indicated in FIGURES 2A-2D could be included in the invention defined by Claim 1.  
9 Claim 8 first recites means for entraining particles associated with a parcel into the volume of air  
10 within the housing. Clearly, each of the four species indicated in FIGURES 2A-2D reads on Claim 8.  
11 Claim 11 specifically recites the splitting blade shown in FIGURE 2A. Claims 13-30 and  
12 Claims 33-52 recite elements not affected by the election of the two alternatives from FIGURES 4A  
13 and 4B and the four alternatives from FIGURES 13, 15, 18 and 19. Independent Claim 53 recites a  
14 triggering sampler adapted to obtain particles from an item of mail, independent Claim 54 recites  
15 means for distributing particles associated with an item of mail into the volume of air in the housing,  
16 and independent Claim 55 recites a method that includes the step of obtaining samples of particles  
17 associated with a parcel. Clearly, each of the four alternatives indicated in FIGURES 2A-2D reads  
18 on Claims 53, 54 and 55. Claim 56-59 and 64-87 recite elements not affected by the election of any  
19 of the identified alternatives. Claim 62 specifically recites the step of using a splitting blade as  
20 shown in FIGURE 2A.

21 With respect to the four alternatives from FIGURES 2A-2D, applicants have elected a  
22 specific one of the alternatives as required by the Examiner (FIGURE 2A). It should be noted  
23 however, that specific ones of the alternatives for obtaining samples (i.e., the four alternatives  
24 illustrated in FIGURES 2A-2D) are not recited in any of the independent claims, thus each of the  
25 independent claims (Claim 1, Claim 53, Claim 54, and Claim 55) is generic with respect to the  
26 species defined by FIGURES 2A-2D.

27 Referring now to FIGURES 4A-4B, applicants note that the difference in the two alternatives  
28 identified in such Figures is the use of a rotary impeller (i.e., rotary impact collector) that is rinsed in  
29 situ to provide a sample of particles (FIGURE 4A), and an impeller that is removed before rinsing  
30 (FIGURE 4B). The removable impeller, as discussed in the specification, can be considered a  
disposable item. The only claims that recite the disposable or removable impeller are Claims 31  
and 32, which have not been included in the list of claims that read on the elected invention. Note  
that Claims 31 and 32 ultimately depend on Claim 1. Applicants have elected a specific one of the  
two alternatives of FIGURES 4A-4B as required by the Examiner, but each of the independent claims

1 (Claim 1, Claim 53, Claim 54, and Claim 55) is generic with respect to all species defined by those  
2 two alternatives.

3 FIGURES 13, 15, 18, and 19, which the Examiner indicates relate to four different  
4 alternatives, correspond to exemplary rotary impact collectors coupled with rinsing systems. None of  
5 the claims (except perhaps Claims 31 and 32, which relate to disposable rotary arm collectors) recite  
6 elements that prevent any of the alternatives of FIGURES 13, 15, 18 and 19 from being used as a  
7 detection sampler. In some claims, any of the alternatives of FIGURES 13, 15, 18 and 19 could also  
8 be used to implement a triggering sampler. Thus, even though applicants have elected a specific one  
9 of the alternatives as required by the Examiner, each of the independent claims (Claim 1, Claim 53,  
10 Claim 54, and Claim 55) is generic with respect to the species defined by the alternatives of  
11 FIGURES 13, 15, 18, and 19.

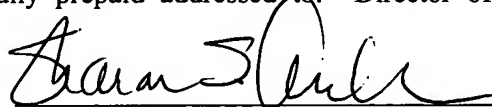
12 Respectfully submitted,

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18 envelope as first class mail with postage thereon fully prepaid addressed to: Director of Patents and  
19 Trademarks, Arlington, VA 22202, on April 25, 2003.

20 Date: April 25, 2003

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